

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT TO SEND EXHIBITION OF KING TUT
TREASURES TO SIX MAJOR CITIES IN THE UNITED STATES

WASHINGTON, D. C. October 28, 1975. A six-cities tour of the United States of gold, alabaster and jewelled treasures from the tomb of the Egyptian King Tutankhamen will begin in November 1976, according to an agreement signed today by Secretary Kissinger and Egyptian Foreign Minister Fahmy at the Department of State.

The loan of Tut treasures was called for in a joint statement signed in June 1974 by Presidents Nixon and Sadat during Nixon's Egyptian visit. This announcement climaxes the arrangements for the tour, which were conducted by officials of the U.S. and Egyptian governments, as well as Egyptian and U.S. museum officials.

The exhibition will open at the National Gallery of Art in November 1976 and then will be seen at the Field Museum, Chicago (in joint sponsorship with The University of Chicago), April 1977; the New Orleans Museum of Art, September 1977; the Los Angeles County Museum of

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Art, February 1978; the Seattle Art Museum, July 1978; and The Metropolitan Museum of Art, December 1978.

Although the dates are tentative, each museum will have the exhibition on view for approximately four months. By mutual agreement of the participating museums, the Metropolitan Museum will manage the consortium.

The exhibition will include fifty of the most beautiful and representative of the tomb treasures. Chief among them will be one of the most remarkable effigies in the history of man, the solid gold mask of Tutankhamen, beaten and burnished, inlaid with carnelian, lapis lazuli, colored glass and quartz. The exhibition will also include two famous statues of Tutankhamen -- the large figure of the King made of gilded wood and the statuette of him harpooning. In addition to the fifty objects from the Tomb, there will also be five works from the periods immediately preceding and following the time of Tutankhamen.

All costs of transportation and installation of the exhibition in the United States will be borne by the six participating institutions. There will be no special admission charge to the exhibition.

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Proceeds from the sale of printed materials and reproductions will be donated, after expenses, for the work of the Organizations of Antiquities of the Egyptian Government, principally for major renovation of the Cairo Museum. A contribution by an anonymous private donor will enable the Metropolitan Museum to provide further technical assistance, expertise and basic equipment for the renovation work.

The installation of the exhibition will include many photographs recording the discovery and opening of the tomb by the British archeologist Howard Carter in 1922. The Metropolitan Museum holds the originals of these photographs, which were taken by staff members of a Metropolitan Museum expedition working at a nearby site at the time. Unlike previous tomb discoveries, all ransacked by centuries of tomb robbers, not only had Tutankhamen's mummy survived intact inside its sarcophagus and three golden coffins, but most of the funerary treasures and the King's personal possessions had survived virtually untouched as well.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION or photographs contact Katherine Warwick, Assistant to the Director (Information Officer), National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. 20565, area code 202, 737-4215, ext. 224.